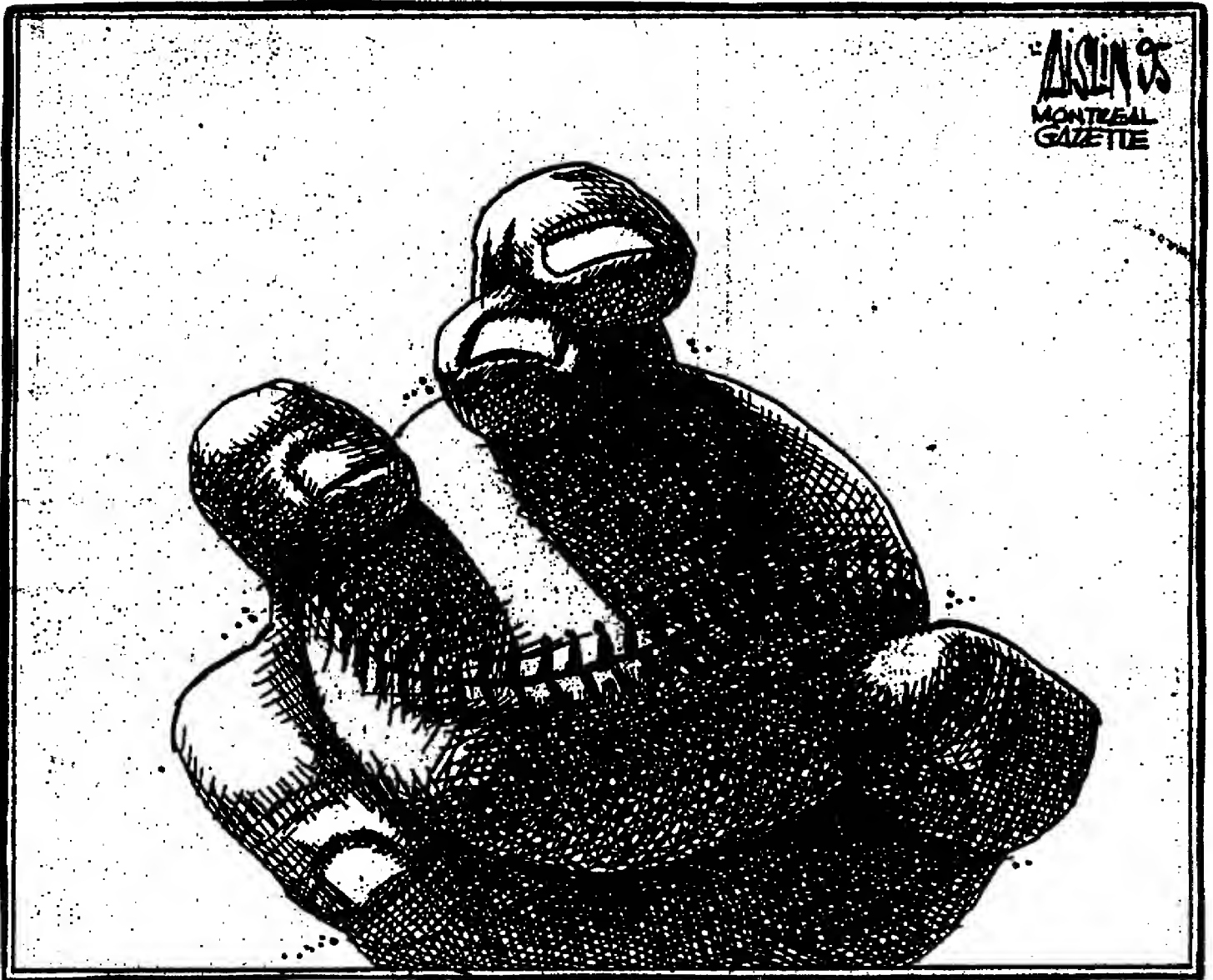


MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE

Issue #20

April 7, 1995



**This Cover Has Absolutely Nothing To Do With
What's Inside ... I Just Like The Cartoon!**

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MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE is an amateur publication dedicated to the play of **Diplomacy** and other multi-player games by mail. **Diplomacy**, which was invented by Alan Calhamer is currently published (in North America at least) by **The Avalon Hill Game Company**. Subscriptions to **MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE** costs 3 1/2 cents per page plus postage (and GST on postage). The game fee for openings is \$4.00.

Deadline for money, letters, signing up for games, and just about anything else you can think of is

This issue will cost \$1.16 in Canada, and \$1.24 to the USA. This comes to around \$10 for a year. Cost anywhere

else in the world is \$1.50, but since only one of my overseas contacts isn't a trader that doesn't come up much. All prices are in **Canadian funds**. Incidentally, that \$1.50 is about 75p for British readers.

MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE is published by **Brent McKee**; 901 Avenue T North; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Canada; S7L 3B9.

Your current balance is: \$ *Trade*

About The Cover

The cover for this issue celebrates the return of baseball, produced by **Montreal Gazette** cartoonist and baseball fan Terry Mosher, more commonly known as Aislin.

You will note that the pitcher has his fingers crossed. And why not. After all, Baseball is returning without the contract problems resolved. The strike was supposed to give a result and it hasn't. It is possible, even probable that sometime before the end of this season, the players or the owners will start the strike up again. Baseball also has trouble with the Umpires, who I believe have been locked out by the owners. Apparently management feels that they can get along better with replacement umpires than replacement players, or maybe the fans just won't notice the difference.

Of course, since Aislin is based out of Montreal, he has local problems to worry about. The Montreal Expos are in lousy shape in terms of finance, attendance and talent. Since the end of the strike the Expos have lost Larry Walker to free agency, and have traded John Wetteland, Ken Hill, and Marquis Grissom. Major features in all of these deals has been that a considerable amount of money has changed hands, and that if the team had retained the players the cost would have jumped next year. Still, it hurts. John Wetteland is reported as having said "Apparently they don't want to spend a dollar to make two."

Unfortunately, for the Expos it is a case of spending a dollar to make 75 cents. The Expos haven't drawn well since 1981, when they lost the National League pennant to the Dodgers. They need 12,000 season ticket owners to break even...and can't get them. Olympic Stadium is the worst facility in Baseball. With its fixed roof and sterile interior, this "multi use" facility doesn't do anything well, except cost money. It is far from downtown, and that fixed plastic roof makes it the world's biggest sauna in the Montreal summer. The Expos need a new stadium...but there's no money. Montreal is a city of front-runners. They love winners, hate and ignore losers. Had the Expos won Pennant and the World Series last year, had there been a Pennant and World Series for them to win, fans might have come. No wonder baseball fans in Montreal are worried. The team is regarded as a prime target to be moved, probably to northern Virginia, unless the people show up this year. The owners will be happy, since they'll turn a very large profit, and the buyers will be happy since they'll have a franchise. The only people who won't be happy are the fans. But after all who cares about them.

Distractions and Reactions

Writing this issue hasn't come easily, so it probably isn't one of my better ones. I'm not suffering from Writer's Block; I know what that is and this ain't it. What it seems like is a lack of desire to do any writing at all. There's either something that needs to be done, or something I'd rather be doing, like bowling. Since the end of February I've competed in two tournaments, one of which involved a trip to Moose Jaw (my second favorite city in the province). My teams won prizes both times, although not the championship. The events each involved a banquet and dance. I don't dance, but I do eat.

Because of too many banquets, I'm trying to lose weight. Based on the old tables of height and weight, 175 lbs is about right for my almost 6 foot frame, but when I found out that I weighed 175 lbs I was mortified. It had been a while since I'd been on the scales after all. The last time, I was at 165 lbs and felt uncomfortably heavy. I think my best weight is around 155 lbs, which is my current goal. To lose the weight I have combined increased exercise with reduced food consumption. So far I'm down to about 170 lbs, and feeling a bit out of sorts. By the time I get to 155 lbs I'll probably be real crabby!

Amid dire predictions from the *Wall Street Journal* that if Canada didn't immediately reduce its deficit (and given political attitudes at the *Journal* that means eliminating social programs) it would become an honorary member of the Third World, Paul Martin Jr brought in the new budget. It didn't do what the *Journal* wanted, but it did make "significant" cuts. One organization that suffer major cuts was the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, despite earlier promises that government wouldn't touch the CBC. The CBC subsidy has been reduced by \$40 million, and will be further reduced in future budgets. They also played a nasty trick on the Corporation. Until a few years ago, the shortwave service, Radio Canada International, was part of the CBC. In an earlier round of budget cuts, RCI was axed entirely. There was an outcry, the net result of which was that administration of RCI was transferred to the Department of External Affairs. In this new budget, RCI was returned to the CBC, cutting \$15 million from External Affairs

while effectively increasing the CBC's budget cut to \$55 million.

This is not a protest against the cuts to the CBC. The Corporation's president, Tony Menara resigned to do that and it didn't work. However, I am mystified by the reaction to the cuts. I recently heard a group of "experts" on CBC Radio's *Morningside* discussing them. CBC runs five domestic radio services (English AM, French AM, English FM, French FM, Northern Service Radio), three Television networks (English, French and Northern Services) and two cable services (News-world and RDI). The focus of discussion was English language TV, which was defined as the root of the Corporation's problems. The experts had four major suggestions. First, get rid of all sports, commercial services can do that; second get rid of all American programs, they can be seen on cable; third, get rid of commercials; finally, reduce most of the regional stations to the status of relays. In effect the CBC would become a Canadian PBS. For my part I think these proposals would destroy CBC English language TV, not save it.

Radio in both languages succeeds by filling a niche that other stations ignore; serious discussion, classical music and drama. Northern Services are essential, no one else is going to do it because of the costs involved. Similarly the cable news services are considered to be doing an essential job; Canada needs a Canadian perspective on world and domestic news. CNN just isn't enough. French language television is the great success story. At times up to 4 million people are watching Radio Canada programs. But then they don't compete with the American networks. English language television is another thing entirely. It is considered a failure because it doesn't draw huge rating numbers. Unfortunately these proposed reforms won't change that. *Hockey Night in Canada* is the most popular program on Canadian television. Taking it and other sports off would alienate viewers across the country, some of whom don't have access to the "commercial services" that would be willing to take it over. Removing commercials, while a laudable goal, would remove the Corporation's major source of revenue. We don't have a license fee for television sets to

fund the CBC the way Britain has for the BBC. It would have been a good idea but it can't be brought in now. Getting rid of American programming is good idea in principle, but part of the reason why CBC ratings are so low is that most Canadians want to see American shows. At the same time, American programs can be had for a fraction of the price of domestic production, which explains why the private sector does its own shows only grudgingly. Reducing the regions may be the worst thing the Corporation could do. Living as I do in one of the cities that suffered from the last series of closures I know that there is a great deal of resentment aimed at the CBC, despite (perhaps because) we receive "provincial" news from Regina. They cut personnel but wouldn't sell the license to a private group which would have operated the station as a CBC affiliate. Closing down regional production, especially local news, reinforces the perception that the CBC is really the Toronto Broadcasting Corporation.

So, if I'm so smart what do I think should be done? First, retain sports and advertising. Second, keep the regional stations open, and in areas where the CBC has closed stations, offer to enter into a partnership with local groups to keep the station producing local news and public affairs shows. Third, enter into more co-production agreements with international partners. Finally, painful as it is, increase the percentage of non-domestic programs in prime time, and run American shows at the same time as the US stations. CBC management must remember the words of Davidson Dutton, the CBC chairman who started CBC television, "The system will be as Canadian as we can afford it to be."

The Turbot, also known as the Greenland Halibut, is a truly ugly fish. It is what they call a ground fish, which means that it lives on the ocean floor. Who'd have thought that so ugly a fish would have caused strained relations between Canada and most of Europe? The problem is, who has the right to fish where, and who has the right to regulate fishing where.

The majority of the world's fish stocks live in areas of relatively shallow water known as Continental Shelves. The Continental Shelf off the east coast of Canada is known as the Grand Banks. Most nations accept a 200 mile limit to their jurisdic-

tion; in the case of Canada this covers most of the Grand Banks except for two areas, known as the "nose and tail", that fall outside the limit. In the past, Canada has accepted the definition of the area as international waters and watched factory ships from a variety of nations operate there. Regulations, from of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), supposedly exists, but there is no real power to enforce these quotas.

The fishery off the east coast is in frighteningly bad shape. In the area where John Cabot dropped baskets over the sides of his ship and hauled them up filled with fish, Cod and Halibut stocks are so low that they are considered commercially extinct. Turbot is the last major species considered commercially viable. Blame for the reduced stocks has been placed on a variety of causes but the greatest blame has been placed on foreign overfishing, particularly the practices of the Spanish and Portuguese fleets. The NAFO Turbot quota for the entire European Union for 1995 is 3,400 tons. In the first two weeks of 1995 it is estimated that the Spanish took over 7,000 tons of Turbot, twice the annual allotment.

In response, the Canadian government announced that it would unilaterally take over control of the Nose and Tail. The Spanish and Portuguese withdrew their fleets temporarily but when a Spanish corvette arrived they returned to the area and began fishing. Canada's Fisheries Department arrested the Spanish trawler *Estai*. Before being boarded the captain of the *Estai* cut loose his net. The location was noted and the net later recovered. While the net conformed to NAFO regulations for mesh size it contained a second net or liner which was smaller than the allowable size. Used together the mesh size was reduced to the point where fish as small as 4 inches long were being caught. The net and fish were exhibited before the United Nations (and the world media) by Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin. The Europeans were incensed by the Canadian action (which included cutting lose the net of a second trawler). Spain imposed visa restrictions on Canadians, but European solidarity wasn't total. The British were especially loyal to Canada. Ties of language, heritage, and the service of Canadians in two world wars were cited in the British House of Commons. British

newspapers, starting with the **Daily Telegraph** (owned by Canadian Conrad Black) were vocal in their support. British fisherman, worried about the end of the five year restriction on Spain fishing European waters, flew Canadian flags on their boats as a sign of solidarity.

The Spanish fishing fleet is notorious for its actions. When Spain and Portugal came into the European Union one condition was that the waters off other European countries would be closed to them for a period of five years. The Spanish have been chased away from several African nations as well as the coast of Chile. Their ships, like those of a number of other nations including Russia and Japan, are effectively strip mining the oceans without regard to conservation. The EU may have been incensed at Canadian actions, but they came to the negotiating table. Apparently Canada and the EU have been close to an agreement on several occasions, only to have the Spanish reject it as not giving their fishery enough of the stock to survive.

One of Canada's heroes in the 1992 Summer Olympics was rower Silken Laumann. A few months before the Barcelona games her boat was rammed by another boat, damaging the tendons on one of her legs. It was feared that she might never race again, or at least not be available for the Olympics. She recovered enough to participate and won a bronze medal.

In this year's Pan American Games in Argentina Laumann participated in the Single Sculls and on the Women's Fours Without Cox. The Fours team was dubbed "The Dream Team" since it consisted of Canada's best women rowers, including Laumann's arch-rival Marnie MacBean. Canada won both events. Then came the rumours that someone on the team had tested positive for a "performance enhancing substance". In time it was revealed that the person was Silken Laumann, and that the performance enhancing substance was Ephedrine, a stimulant.

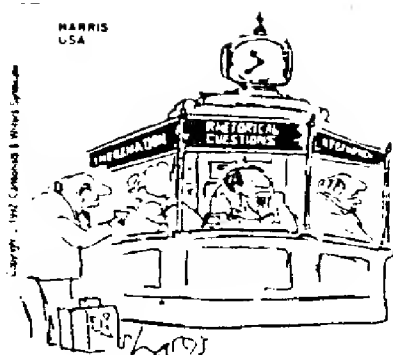
The details were revealed at a press conference in Canada. In the period leading up to the games, Laumann, who is asthmatic, suffered from a cold. She went to the rowing team's doctor, Dr Backus for a medication which would not affect her eligibility. He recommended an over the counter medication, Benedryl. Since she was congested, Laumann bought Benedryl

Decongestant, which relieved her symptoms. She had told one of the doctors on the Games team that she had been using Benedryl, and he okayed it. The night before the Women's Fours race (and after her Single Sculls win) she was coughing and wheezing. She didn't want to keep the people she was rooming with awake, so she took two Benedryl. The next day the Fours won their final by 11 seconds. Then came the urine test which found trace amounts of Pseudoephedrine. The International Rowing Federation (FISA) stripped Laumann and her team mates of the gold medal in the Fours, but because Laumann passed the urine test following her win in the Single Sculls she was allowed to keep that medal.

What Silken Laumann didn't know and what the doctors didn't tell her is that there are two types of Benedryl. The type she bought, Benedryl Decongestant, contains Pseudoephedrine, since the Diphenhydramine in regular Benedryl causes drowsiness. In the decongestant version the Pseudoephedrine counteracts this.

Following the decision to strip Laumann of her medals, a lot of blame has been passed around. Some people have said she should have looked at ingredients on the box and checked the book of banned substances all athletes are issued with (the print on the box is very small). Others have blamed the doctors who recommended Benedryl without telling her that there are two types. Some have even wondered why a doctor would recommend Benedryl to an athlete since it produces drowsiness.

International athletics is very careful about performance enhancing drugs, and Ephedrine itself can be a problem. It is a powerful stimulant, and in Detroit is one of the drugs of choice among the high school crowd. A packet of tablets can be bought over the counter as a diet aid for 85 cents. Other athletes are using drugs like Ephedrine to enhance performances and not getting caught. A doctor in Holland who has openly stated that he provided performance enhancing substances to athletes, and they don't even get tested. Perhaps the only thing that athletes like Laumann can do is to take nothing for their medical problems and suffer the consequences. Still, losing a gold medal seems a grievous punishment for listening to one's doctor.



The Nut Hutch

Glenn McMaster, Tory Ontario: I did a bit of research at the library the other day., I figured that if the American occupation of Japan was enlightened then the Japanese merchant fleet that was lost would have rapidly been rebuilt to the tune of 3-4 million tons. If it was not rapidly rebuilt (with the massive wartime surplus of allied shipping) then a harsh occupation was a possibility, and control of vital foodstuffs & resources via shipping was one way the Americans maintained control. Unfortunately the first *Janes'* postwar edition at the library was the 1950-51 edition. I was hoping for something earlier. Jap merchant tonnage in 1950? 1.5 million tons, or 1/4 of what they had before the war. That's a pretty small, almost trivial amount, but not conclusive either way (although at that level, Japan doesn't even have enough to support its civilian economy).

5.98 mt - Japs start war 5.98 million tons
+3.20 mt - Build 3.2 million tons during war

9.18 mt - Total Japan shipping
+0.40 mt - Captured from allies 1942
 400,000 tons

9.58 mt - Grand Total
-7.50 mt - Sunk all causes by allies 7.5 million tons

2.08 mt - Survived war 2.08 million tons
 1950: 1.5 million tons. Less than 1945!

You answer me this: if the America was the big loving teddy bears they were described as, why does Japan have less shipping in 1950 than in 1945?

((BM: I recently saw at a reprint of the 1945-46 *Janes* however it only reproduced the Japanese tonnage for 1939. Still, there are some explanations for the discrepancy. First, take away the 400,000 tons captured from the Allies. Presumably some (probably all) of that tonnage was demanded by the previous owners as reparations. Second, your list doesn't in-

clude ships that survived the war but were declared unseaworthy after the war

((Of course shipping doesn't tell the whole story. The following is from the 1975 edition of an official Japanese government guidebook. "The Japanese economy, however, rose out of the economic confusion relatively quickly. By fiscal 1950, mining and industrial production exceeded prewar level to mark 105, compared with 100 for the 1934-36 period. The production index rose to 131 in 1951." The same book states that by 1953 mining and industrial output was five times the level of 1945, and per capita income and consumption had risen above prewar levels.))

Steve McKinnon, Albany N.Y.: The Canadian Airborne Regiment incident is ironic. The Govt apparently has no problem sending troops where they can be sprayed with brains, blood, vomit, bile, feces and other bodily fluids and parts when a nearby soldier is killed. But, God forbid that a ceremony, which is certainly, at the least, is in bad taste, but, which might generate the sort of unit camaraderie and elan that will keep men alive... no, none of that please.

Of course, these sorts of hazings disgust the public and make for good T.V., as do "Mountie" stories. I agree with the Army officials who said disbanding is a bad idea. Unit morale is terrifically important. Such a hazing is probably the most traumatic experience in a trooper's life, to that point. Once he passes he'll be far more accepted by others who've undergone it. The unit should have taken steps to keep it secret.

As to "Where were the officers?" That's a naive question. They were where they would "know" nothing, since if they'd "known" they would have had to report it

((BM: Of course the officers have their own initiation ceremonies, usually drinking games like "Zulu Warrior". The tapes that were broadcast (including the Navy tape I referred to) were broadcast because they were sensational, the sort of thing that you can preface with "the following material may be distasteful to some people" thereby guaranteeing that people will watch. A third "Airborne" initiation tape surfaced but wasn't broadcast, apparently because it wasn't as sensationalistic (it featured a drinking game) as the networks had hoped. I agree with you

that for men to be effective in a combat unit there needs to be bonding. However a book recently published in Canada **There's No Life Like It**, about military spouses, claims that this sort of bonding can be destructive of other relationships.

((There were very real problems with the Regiment that culminated with the murder in Somalia. There were discipline problems (what else do you call it when an NCO's private car is blown up by members of his unit) that went unpunished. There were racist members of the unit. But no one advocated disbanding the unit based solely on that. The best option would have been to weed out the bad element, and remove them from the Forces entirely. The soldiers in the Airborne regarded themselves as an elite; they needed strong discipline and didn't get it. Instead the Regiment was disbanded when circumstances (the widespread disgust over the hazing tape) made it politically expedient.))

Also ironic, is that whereas Hollywood made Canadian-based movies in the States in the past, now large numbers of T.V. shows are shot in Canada due to \$. Montreal & Vancouver skylines are seen everywhere from **Highlander** to **X-Files** to about 1/3 of the T.V. movies aired.

((BM: Don't forget Toronto which has been used by producers for years to stand in for American cities. In one case they have to dirty up streets in Toronto to make them look more like an American city (true!) Most of Steven J. Cannell's current production is done in Vancouver. The reason isn't entirely money. You have actors and crews who are the equal of most in the US, the buildings and cars aren't too exotic, and the area isn't over-used (yet). Best of all, you can find most any scenery you want within a few hours drive of the major cities. And yet Americans begrudge us the right to require Canadian theaters show at least some Canadian made movies. Don't get me started on Jack Valenti.))

Andy York, Universal City, Texas: Thanks, by the way, for the nostalgia trip with the pages mixed up!!!!

((BM: Aw gee, and I thought no one would notice. When I tape the masters together I have them face down. I taped two pages together on the wrong side of each other. I did the reductions and took everything to the print shop, and didn't notice that anything was wrong until I was about to staple the issue together. Under the circumstances I didn't think it was a serious enough problem to enlarge my ulcer over.))

Robert Lesco, Brampton Ontario: While there's space, who is the CDO? Ok, Cal is #1 and you're a committeeman, but who is the other one? Eric, Claude, Pierre? Cal volunteered to be Ombudsman. Do you think an ad in **The General** might bring in some new players? I'm at a loss. While I'm trying to reduce my sub-list I do want more **players**. I will put up a notice in the Worldhouse game store in Toronto. Doug Acheson did in 1989 which is how I got here.

((BM: Points in order. The second committeeman is Pierre, although there hasn't been an election in quite a while. That doesn't bother me a great deal as I really think any organization in any hobby that doesn't set standards or organize events should be dormant until needed. Right now the CDO isn't needed as much as it was when it was founded or when Doug revitalized it. The services (Orphan Games Officer and Ombudsman) are needed but not necessarily the structure that backs them up. An ad in **The General** couldn't hurt. Eric Klein used it for years when he was running the paper zine **Protocol**, and WAY uses it to promote **Pontevedria**. Ads in local games stores, especially in a city like Toronto, might produce even better results. I put an ad in **Collector's Edge** in Saskatoon and got three responses. Of course only one (James Byers) actually subbed, so you might not get everything you hope for. Another idea is to check out the players in Bob, Eric, and my zines for people who are active, especially new people, and send blind samples. I've had fair results with that technique.))

Wow! Would you look at that! Too much white space to leave blank, but not enough to slip in a cartoon. What to do, what to do, what to do? I know: a new definition of Canadians courtesy of Peter C. Newman: **"The only citizens of any of the world's major powers who would rather be Clark Kent than Superman."**

Why Does It Work Like That - The Star Trek Way

Canada's version of the Discovery Channel features an excellent science news show called **@DISCOVERY.CA**. An occasional feature is a discussion with Canadian based science fiction writer Spider Robinson about the science in science fiction and how "real" that science is. One of the first things discussed was the latest addition to the Star Trek universe, **Star Trek: Voyager**, and science in the Star Trek universe in general.

One of the first things that Robinson pointed out was most of the science in Star Trek is, and always has been, gobble-de-gook. Indeed Robinson told a story about how he had been hired to provide a script for **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, but when he went to discuss story ideas he found that the man who had hired him had himself been fired. It seems that the man had been hiring too many science fiction writers and that these writers had been a little too insistent that the science be realistic, or at least consistent with real principles. Apparently the **ST:TNG** producers (and presumably the **DS9** and **ST:V** producers as well) prefer to make things up to suit the situation.

Robinson then went on to point out that there were numerous inconsistencies in the science in **Voyager**. For example, in the title sequence the ship passes through a gas cloud. The cloud parts in front of the ship and comes back together behind the ship forming eddies as it does. He cited other examples as well. Starships bank, even though they are travelling through airless space. Ships always orbit at the equator. Ships that encounter each other are always on the same plane, and never at strange angles to each other. Let's not even mention the holo-decks, which Robinson claims are **Star Trek's** answer to magic. Scientists have chimed in with their own opinions. The human body is too complex to be transported; it is impossible to create the massive quantities of anti-matter needed to propel starships, and even if they could it would take equipment that would dwarf the **USS Enterprise D**.

Part of the prejudice against established science fiction writers goes back to one of the best loved stories of the original **Star Trek**, "City on the Edge of Forever". The episode was written by science fiction's

legendary enfant terrible, Harlan Ellison. Ellison had actually been contracted to do six scripts, but he had a disdain for working to a deadline (essential in writing for television). He also demanded elaborate special effects and scenes that, in the pre-computer age, were far too expensive for a TV series working to the minuscule budgets provided for network television. Gene Roddenberry and Ellison apparently mutually agreed to end their working relationship prematurely. The net result of this fiasco was an ingrained suspicion of working with science fiction writers. If there was to be a vision it would be the producers.

What I would like to try to do in this article is to try to explain away some of the inconsistencies in the science of the **Star Trek** series. The first thing that needs to be said of course is that Spider Robinson and the scientists who decry the science in **Star Trek** are right, the science in the various series is mostly nonsense and for a very good reason; the writers and producers aren't writing science, they are writing fiction. More to the point I guess, they are writing television. Take the transporters. When Roddenberry created the first series, he knew he couldn't stage all his stories on the ship, they had to get down onto planets. What he didn't want was repetitive shots of launching and landings of space craft, which he rightly felt could get boring and hurt the pace of the story-telling (and also be expensive!), so he decided that most of the time the crew would get onto planets instantaneously. Thus the transporter was created. Phasers (another piece of equipment scientists say is impossible because of the power need for such a weapon) were created because this was supposed to be "Wagon Train to the Stars" and what would that sort of show be without "western" style shootouts. They needed guns, which had to be futuristic. Laser beams were in the news then, so why not something that sounded vaguely like laser but somehow more powerful: Phaser. Ideas were created to solve problems as they came up, with little thought about continuity let alone science.

That continuity thing is a nagging problem. Star dates have no consistency at all, they just used what sounded good. What is the top speed of the original **Enterprise**:

is it three times the speed of light, warp factor three, warp nine and a bit? All have been used. Is warp three the speed of light times three (in which case a trip from Earth to Alpha Centauri would take about 16 months, not a matter of days), or is some sort of exponential increase involved like the Richter scale? Again there has never been great consistency. Writers used what sounded good for the circumstances. Producers for later series may have provided "bibles" for writers that outlined what was allowed and what wasn't, but if a good story could be had by putting a pre-warp drive spaceship on a world trillions of miles from where it would have been with a pilot who survived the journey only to die in the scene of a badly written novel, then it was perfectly acceptable to the producers. And it was a pretty good story.

So what are some of the possible, and plausible, explanations for the "problems" that Robinson and others have pointed out. Why, for example do starships orbit around a planet's equator? For myself, I have never actually noticed this supposed behavior, but assuming that it is true, there is a plausible explanation based on the way we locate communication satellites. These are placed in geo-synchronous orbits in order to keep them permanently over a specific point. If you are above or below that orbit, your ship or satellite moves in relation to the planet. Communications satellites are located over the equator to give them maximum coverage of areas north and south of the equator. Now let's look at a starship that has put down a landing party. The people on the ship will want to maintain contact with the away team at all times, so a geo-synchronous orbit is preferable to being either too low or too high. An orbit around the equator is sensible because of the greater coverage for the transporters. This assumes of course that when a transporter beam strikes the surface on an angle it doesn't deliver its cargo on the same angle. That is to say that if a person is beamed down, and the beam strikes the ground at a 45 degree angle, the person won't arrive with one foot on the ground and the other in the air but rather with both feet firmly on the ground.

Then there's the image of *Voyager* passing through that gas cloud. The reason it is used in the opening credits is

obvious, it is a very attractive visual image. But there is a plausible explanation as well. Every starship has a deflector screen on permanently. The reason is simple; if you are traveling near the speed of light, colliding with an object the size of a pebble could really ruin your day. The obvious answer is to create a force field to prevent the pebbles from hitting the ship. Since the field is created using energy, it will behave in the way of such fields. If you watch the portion of the opening credits in question, you will note that as the ship passes through the cloud, the cloud parts before reaching the hull of the ship and there is always a distinct space between the body of the ship and the particles of the cloud. In addition when the cloud parts the area near the ship fluoresces, indicating ionization. When the ship passes by a point in the cloud, the cloud eddies and rejoins because of the energy qualities of the field, the energy flow of the propulsion system, and the gravitational pull of the ship itself.

Which ties into why starships bank when they turn. A ship in a vacuum shouldn't have to bank. Which is true, if banking only has to do with the motion of a body, like an airplane or a submarine, through air or water. But it doesn't only have to do with that, it also has to do with gravity and the laws of motion. If you've ever been in a car that is moving at a good speed which make a 90 degree turn while slowing only minimally, you know that you will move out from the center of the turning radius. Centrifugal force (or more accurately centripetal force) throws us out. That's why turns in race tracks and high speed highways are often banked. When there is no gravity, this doesn't come into effect. However, starships (including the tiniest shuttles and runabouts) have gravity, artificial gravity that they make themselves. Of course they have this gravity for the most pragmatic of reasons; it is difficult (and expensive) to simulate the lack of gravity in a movie studio and far easier simply to take as a given that starships have artificial gravity without explaining how or why such a system works. Taking artificial gravity as a given, it becomes obvious that a starship banks (and presumably does something else when "climbing" or "diving" in relation to the artificial grav-

ity's up and down) in order to counteract the effects of centripetal force on the people living inside

Another question is why starships are always on the same plane as each other and never approach each other at strange angles. The cinematic answer is that having ships on the same plane is less confusing to the viewer and takes up less area on the television screen. If you have two ships one above the other and at right angles to each other you have to make the ships smaller to fit them all in. However there is a plausible "real world" explanation for this. We have rarely seen large battle fleets in action. Most of the encounters that we see are between single ships. Now assuming that the positioning of ships provides no benefit to one or the other, there is no great advantage to having a ship in front of you, above you, below you or behind you. But, what if position does provide an advantage. What if the weapons systems aren't as potent when firing at a target above and to one side. What if shields aren't as powerful aft and below as they are forward. What if a particular part of the structure of the ship is, of necessity a prime target upon which an enemy will direct his fire, for example the struts connecting the warp nacelles to the engineering section. In cases like that a captain would maneuver his ship to prevent an enemy, or potential enemy, from gaining that advantage. The situation is not without precedent. Warships under sail often maneuvered for hours to gain the weather gauge, the wind driving them towards the enemy. Similarly the preferred attack position for the pilots of jet fighters is behind an enemy. One of the reasons why the British Harriers were so successful against the Argentine Air Force in the Falklands was the Harriers' ability to stop, and even back up, in mid-air and wait until the Argentine aircraft sped by before firing their heat seeking missiles. Why shouldn't something like that be the case for starships. Working in large groupings they would presumably be able to cover their weak points with interlocking fields of fire, but alone they'd be vulnerable and forced to maneuver.

Most of the rest of the scientific problems with **Star Trek** can be answered

with the response that it is set two or three centuries in the future (although given what is happening, or rather not happening in the space programs of the world today, it might be better if the date were four or five centuries in the future). Why are transporters able to move something as complex as a human being - they made a breakthrough at some indefinite point in the future. How does warp speed work - we don't know, that advance will be made at some point in the future. Why are you able to produce huge quantities of anti-matter in such a small space - a breakthrough made in the future. And so it goes. You don't really need to explain it, simply say that someone in the future worked out the problems.

That's the thing, you don't really need to explain it. The science may be phony as a nine dollar bill, meaningless jargon, and the people who claim that are right, but it doesn't matter. The real secret to the success of **Star Trek** and its related offspring isn't the veracity of the science, it's the story telling. **Star Trek** is science fiction with the emphasis strongly on fiction not science. In an age when most of what passes for drama on television (in America at least) is people hitting and shooting at each other, or alternately "beautiful people" talking dirty and teasing us with the idea that they're having sex, **Star Trek** was and is a change. The characters have character instead of being one dimensional. **Star Trek** rises and falls on the quality of the story and if you don't believe that compare two films, **Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan** with **Star Trek V: The Final Frontier**. **Star Trek II** is a better film because it has a better, more completely realized story. The nit pickers who rail on about the science in **Star Trek** need to realize that if scientific plausibility slows down or gets in the way of the story telling, then scientific plausibility has to be sacrificed. Science doesn't sell the show, it is caring about the characters and creating stories that are believable and effective that sells the **Star Trek** family of shows. Of course some of those stories are recycled from other sources (like the **DS9** episode that "borrowed" the plot from **Casablanca**), but that's a discussion for another time.

Trek Tech -- Today!

Do we have **Star Trek** technology today? For the most part, the answer seems to be a resounding NO. Looking deeper, it becomes apparent that in some areas, we aren't approaching that level of technology, we've reached it.

The first episodes of **Star Trek** aired in the mid-1960's. Consider the technology at the time. Computers occupied whole rooms and recorded data on reels of magnetic tape. Punch cards were used to sort information. If you wanted to send a memo or write a letter, you dictated it to your secretary, who typed it on the latest IBM Selectric typewriter. If she made a mistake she started over. Salesmen carried order books and sent their orders in to head office by mail. Transistors allowed marvelous feats of miniaturization, most of which were applied to radios.

In other areas, men had walked in space, but only one woman had gone into orbit. Not only hadn't Man walked on the Moon, we hadn't left earth orbit when **Star Trek** debuted. In Medicine, doctors were fighting the scourge of Tuberculosis, and Small Pox hadn't been eradicated. The chief diagnostic tool was the X-Ray.

Into this world, **Star Trek** emerged. It was so futuristic. There were computers terminals everywhere. Computers didn't print data on paper, they showed information on screens and talked to you. Instead of magnetic tape, data was stored on flat squares of what looked like plastic that were put in a slot. Computer screens didn't just show print, they had actual moving pictures...in colour! There was a box that a yeoman would give the captain. He would write on the top and hand it back. There was a thing the size of a pack of cigarettes that they flipped open and which was used to talk to the ship when they were on the ground. Another box, called a tricorder could tell them if there were people (or just about anything else) in the area. The doctor had a bed that gave him all the information he needed to treat a patient. He gave injections without using needles and operated without using a knife. The spaceship travelled faster than the speed of light.

In some ways, not only haven't we advanced very far since the 1960's, we've backslid. We haven't built huge spaceships that travel faster than the speed of light to far distant stars. Twenty six years

after going to the moon we don't have the equipment to go back. We have trouble getting a simple probe to Mars. Three unmanned spaceships have left our solar system, but that was incidental to their main mission and they aren't likely to survive to reach another star let alone an inhabited planet.

It is in other areas that we've surprised ourselves with our advances. CAT scanners and Magnetic Resonance Imagers, give doctors a better picture of the body and what can go wrong with it. Computer modelling shows doctors a three dimensional picture of any area of the human body to see visible abnormalities. For \$100 you can buy a wrist watch that tells the time, work as a stop watch and give you your pulse rate and blood pressure. Most surgery is still done using scalpels but in some specialized fields laser beams are preferred. Since the Swine Flu scare of the mid-1970s, doctors have used an air injection gun for large scale inoculations. The threat of AIDS has meant that people are becoming increasingly leery of needles, even though there is normally no reason to worry.

The biggest advances have been in electronics. In 1965 when the transistor radio was the norm and cassette tape recorders were just coming onto the market, **Star Trek** showed the computer as an every day appliance, something that people took for granted and used every day. Kirk's defense counsel was a figure of fun because he relies on BOOKS and doesn't use a computer. But the advances predicted by **Star Trek** go way beyond that.

Take communicators. They are a simple, compact idea; flip it open and talk to space. Today we have cellular telephones. Some even look like communicators; not surprising given that many of the designers grew up watching **Star Trek**. When you use a cell phone it sends a radio signal to a receiver which puts it onto land line. If you are calling long distance, this land line is connected to a transmitter, which beams your call to a satellite in geo-synchronous orbit that relays it to another base. Cell phones are essentially radio transmitters, and theoretically radio waves go on forever, as the Prince and Princess of Wales have found out. It is possible for spy agencies such as the CIA to use satellites to intercept telephone

conversations, even though the strength of the transmission is reduced as the signal is diffused. Indeed that was a major plot point in Tom Clancy's novel **Clear and Present Danger**. The next step in telephone technology requires a low orbital constellation of satellites. The signal will go from your phone directly to one of these satellites and will even be encrypted to protect you from prying ears.

In **Star Trek**, the Enterprise's sensors can do marvelous things. They can see ships in far distant space, survey a planet, detect population centers, pollution, even specific individuals. We can do most of this today. Landsat examine the earth's atmosphere every day. Landsat detects mineral deposits, archaeological sites, atmospheric pollutants, even what crops are being grown in an area. As for locating people on planetary surfaces, while state of the art photo-intelligence satellites can't show faces or license numbers, it does give enough detail to allow trained analysts to identify individuals. The United States has long used encrypted electronic data transmission for their intelligence and planetary missions, and some satellites can provide "real time" data. Data is sent as numerical sequences which computers translate into pictures. The number of pictures is limited only by the amount the satellite can transmit and the amount that the computers on the ground can handle. Global Positioning Systems allow people to know precisely where they, or someone with the appropriate equipment is located, anywhere on the face of the earth. Scientists are even using it to track moose.

Commander Scott might disagree, but to me the computers are the heart of the Enterprise. The ship is essentially a Local Area Network (LAN). Each terminal can operate independently, data being stored on those plastic squares, which look sort of like today's 3 1/2" floppy disks. Each department has a large mainframe computer from which the terminals in the department and around the ship can draw information and input instructions.

There are areas of computer usage in **Star Trek** which seem far-fetched; for example, the showing past events on the computer. This is of course a writer's device, a *deus ex machina* if you wish, but one of the recent developments in using CD-ROM is multi-media. Your computer It

can now present moving images, play music, or even show a movie. The images aren't as clear or as smooth as those on a VCR yet, but they are getting better. There are also WORM Drive (Write Once, Read Many) systems which use optical storage disks, similar to CD-ROMs. Then there's the matter of officers entering instructions to the computer orally and the computer answering back in its own voice. Some computers today can handle voice input, although one has to speak slowly and clearly and spell out words unknown to the program. It's a start. Similarly there are computers that respond vocally although they haven't made one with Majel Barret's voice.

Finally there is that little box that Captain Kirk was always scribbling on. The 20th century equivalent is the Personal Digital Assistant, of which the Apple Newton is an early example. The PDA can (supposedly) recognize its handwriting. Future versions may have colour screens and built in cell phones. Imagine a salesman with one of these. He'll be able to bring up his order form on the screen, write or check off items ordered as he speaks to his client, then have the PDA fax the order to the home office. A doctor on a call could use his PDA and cell phone to contact his office computer to check a patient's medical records, and then log on to a medical data base to check specific symptoms. Perhaps this is the predecessor of the tricorder.

Even devices in **Star Trek: The Next Generation** are no longer so far fetched. Geordie LaForge uses his VISOR to see. The device collects images, even those out of the normal range of the human eye, processes them and uses some form of neural link to transmit them directly to his brain. Johns Hopkins Medical Center is experimenting with a form of this device for people with serious vision problems. uses miniature television cameras to record images and feeds them to LCD TV screens inches from a person's eyes, compensating for specific problems such as near-sightedness or tunnel vision. It's a long way from the miracles of LaForge's VISOR, but it is a step.

In the mid-1960's many things in **Star Trek** seemed far fetched, achievable if at all in the far future. In the mid-1990's, for some of those ideas at least, it seems that the future is now.

The Undersea War

British use of submarines differed significantly from the way the Germans used theirs. During World War I the approaches to Germany and its conquered neighbour Belgium were blocked by the British Isles. At the start of the war the British imposed a distant blockade on Germany, stopping ships bound for Germany or Holland and searching them for "contraband" (as defined by the Geneva Convention). For Germany to resume her overseas trade meant defeating the Royal Navy. Germany's response was to use their resources to blockade the United Kingdom. There were some surface raiders, but the most effective weapon, since it could slip through the blockade undetected was the submarine. Thus, the main task of German submarines became sinking merchant shipping.

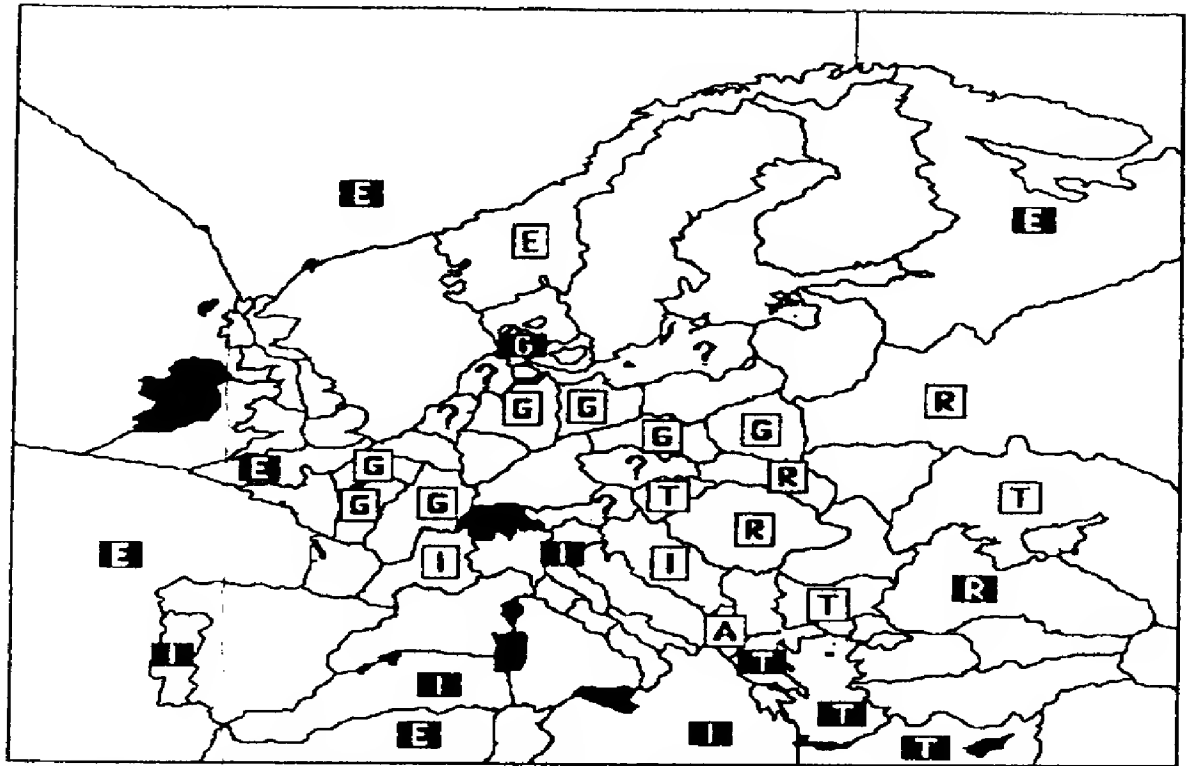
British submarines were used differently in part because there was little German shipping to attack in the North Sea. It was different in the Baltic, where Germany was the dominant naval power, and many British submarine officers dreamed of making a name for themselves there. That meant sailing through the Skaggerak a shallow, treacherous, and heavily patrolled strait. More than one British submarine was lost trying to enter the Baltic. The Royal Navy had a different use for their submarines. The British battle fleet was based in the north, at Scapa Flow and at Rosyth. They needed information on the location and movements of the German fleet, especially if they were making a sortie to bombard the British southeast coast. The submarine was the ideal scout for this job.

The main German naval base in the North Sea was Wilhelmshaven, about 40 miles from the border with the Netherlands. To the north are the Eastern Frisian Islands, and the former British possession of Heligoland. The British laid minefields between the islands, and the main jobs of the submarines were to prevent attempts to sweep the mines and to watch for the German High Seas Fleet as it emerged from harbour, but under no circumstances to attack it. Occasionally there were orders to attack transports, the sailing times of which were known because the British had cracked the German Naval Cipher. The patrols were boring and repetitive, lasting around six days on station. The biggest danger was the weather. One H-boats, H-6, was driven off station by bad weather and grounded on one of the Dutch islands. Despite another submarine's best efforts to pull her off, she was captured by the Dutch and her crew interned. The Dutch eventually purchased H-6 and renamed her O-8.

On one of these patrols Barney Johnson had a very narrow escape. On March 22, 1916, the last morning of H-8's patrol, there was a sudden explosion. H-8 nosed down, her bow striking the seabed and taking on a 25 degree angle. Having experienced something similar on the CC boats, Johnson knew what to do. When as much damage as possible was repaired, he ordered the main ballast tanks blown to take the bow off the bottom and motors at full astern to bring the boat to the surface. Once there he surveyed the damage. The visible damage was seemed minor but as the boat lifted in the swells, Johnson noted that the bow cap was blown off and the warheads of all four torpedoes were exposed. Only a thin bulkhead kept water from flooding into the forward part of the ship. Johnson decided to try to run for England on the surface. They couldn't dive, they couldn't fight, and they could only run at 6 1/2 knots. Amazingly, since the gyrocompass had been damaged, they reached home without incident. German propaganda stated that "they were both very brave and very fortunate to have attempted and successfully pulled off such a fine feat of seamanship."

Reaction in England was initially much different. Johnson's commanding officer was ready to put the blame on him. It was claimed that H-8 strayed out her patrol area and into a mine field, probably as a result of being commanded by a Reserve officer with another Reservist as navigator. An inquiry revealed the real story of H-8's near sinking. The boat was damaged by a British mine, laid nine days before by HMS Biarritz. A series of gales had driven many of the mines about 30 miles south west of their original position, into H-8's patrol area. Fortunately the mine's cables were slack. When the bow diving plane snagged the cable, the mine detonated some distance from the boat. Had it been closer, H-8 would have been lost. For his actions, Johnson was promoted to Lieutenant Commander, awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and since the damage to H-8 was irreparable, given command of the larger D-3.

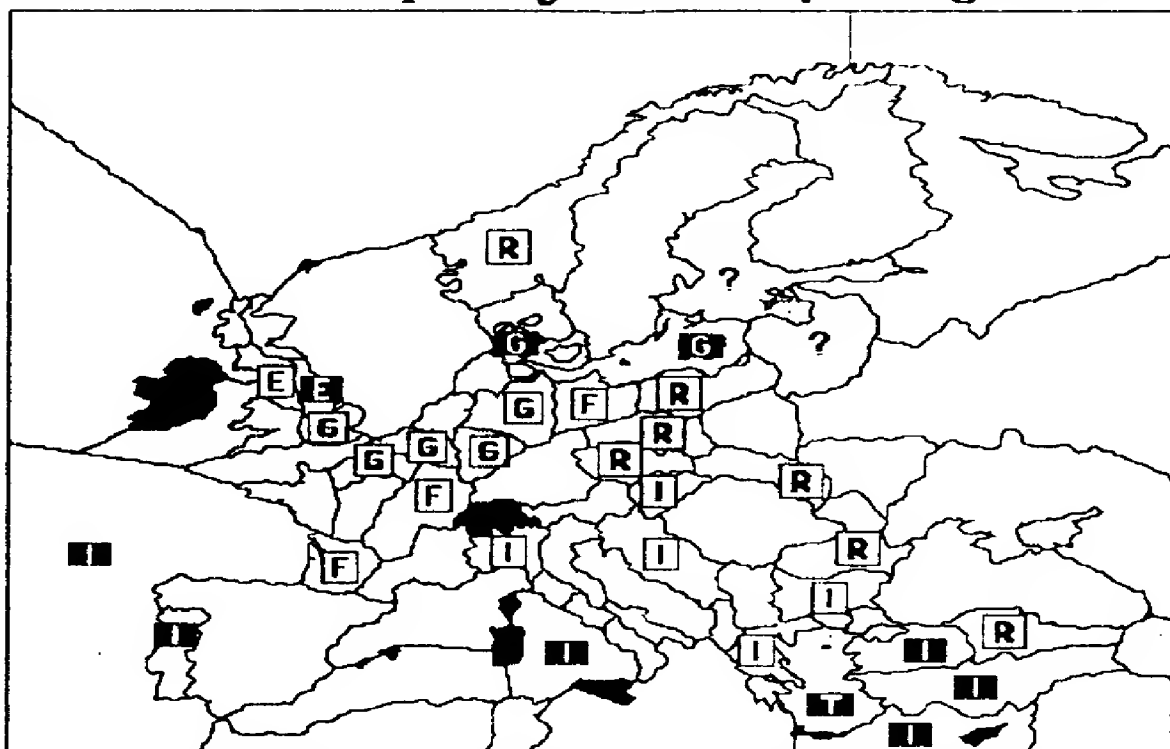
Spring 1905



Deadline for Fall 1905 is **MAY 19, 1995.**

Italy Doesn't Want Budapest Just Everything Else

1993 HCrb32
Shearwater
Gunboat Dip
with press
Spring 1907



Rotten GMing: When I was doing up the game report I forgot to indicate that: (a) the German move A Yor-Cly was impossible, and (b) A Yor was dislodged (it was indicated on the map). I also indicated on the map that A Ruh-Mun succeeded when in fact it failed. The adjudication was correct. Oh yeah, Italy has 11 centers, not 9.

Retreats

France retreats F Spa (nc)-Por

Germany retreats A Yor-Lon

Russia retreats F Den-Bal

Builds

Germany No Build Recieved.

Italy builds A Ven, F Nap.

England: Thomas Tank Engine () F YOR-Lon, A LVP H.

France: Starman () F Por H (D, ret otb), A BUR-Bel, A BER s Russian A Gal-Mun (NSO), A GAS-Bre.

Germany: Swamp Fox II () F PIC-Bre, A LON-Yor, A BEL-Bur, A RUH H (UNO), F Swe-BAL, A KIE s A Mun-Ber (NSO), F DEN s F Swe-Bal, A Mun-Ber (NSU).

Italy: Ghost Rider II () A VIE-Bud, A GRE s A Ser-Bul, F MAO s F Spa (sc)-Por, A Ser-BUL, F Bul (sc)-CON, F SMY s F Bul (sc)-Con, A TRI-Bud, F Spa (sc)-POR, F EAS-Ion, A Ven-PIE, F Nap-TYS.

Russia: Wildcat () A RUM-Bud, A Sil-BOH, A GAL s A Sil-Boh, A PRU-Ber, F Bal s A Pru-Ber (D, ret Lvn, Bal, otb), A Arm-ANK, A War-SIL, A StP-NWY

Turkey: Data () A Con-Bul (D, ret otb), F AEG-Ion.

Press:

Starman-Ghost Rider II: Greedy aren't you. I wouldn't sell my soul to him though he's creating a nice little mittel-Europa. It would be nice if you let me survive in a large enough measure to protect myself versus Germany, especially since I have done **absolutely nothing** to you. At least let me rot in Portugal!!!

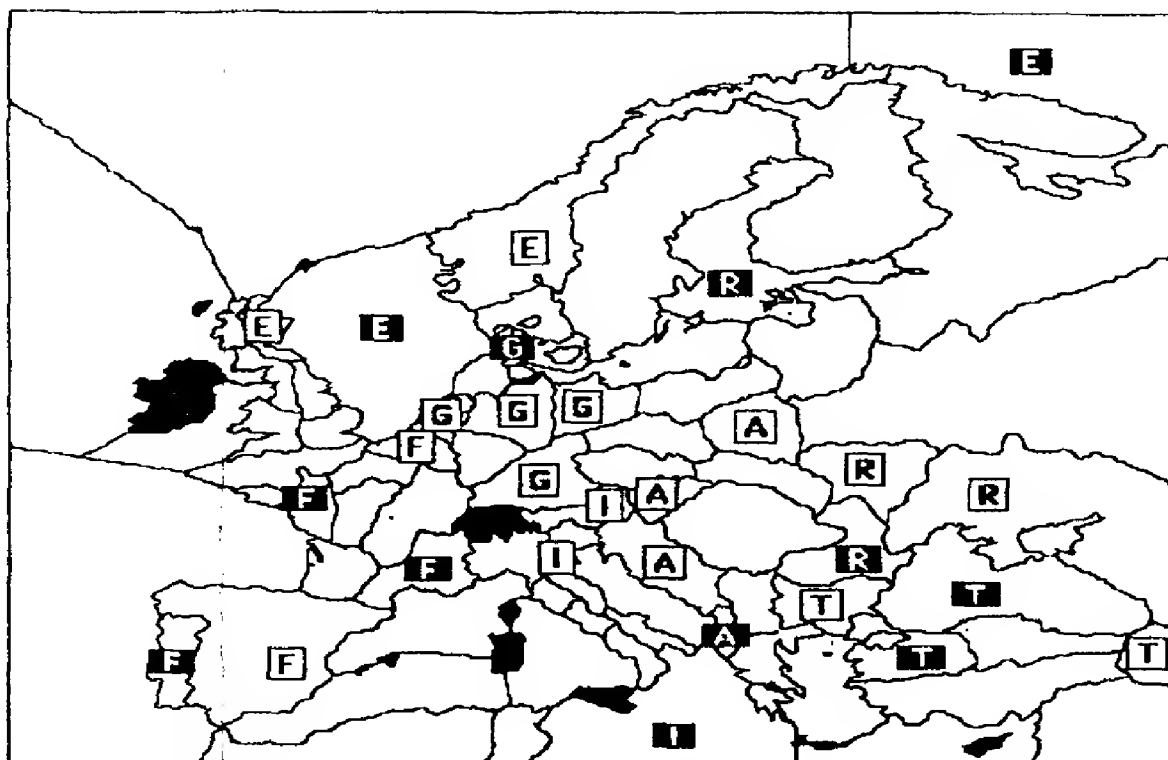
Starman-Wildcat: Make the most of my resources while I choose to remain a viable part of this game. Nail the German bugger as much as you can before the ceremonial samurai comes out. The Italian treatment of my goodwill throughout this game has distressed me greatly.

Starman-Swamp Idiot: Get a life. You brought my wrath on yourself. I'll make sure anyone but you gets my spoils!!!!

Deadline for Fall 1907 is **MAY 19, 1995**. GM information is found elsewhere.

The Rest Does Us All Some Good

Hochelaga
1994 AJrb32
Gunboat
Diplomacy
No Press
Winter 1901



Builds

Austria builds A Vie

England builds A Edi

France builds F Bre, F Mar, plays one short

Germany builds A Ber, A Kie

Turkey builds F Con

Austria: () Has A Tri, A War, F Alb, A Vie

England: () Has F Nth, F Bar, A Nwy, A Edi

France: () Has A Bel, A Spa, F Por, F Bre, F Mar

Germany: () Has A Hol, A Mun, F Den, A Ber, A Kie

Italy: () Has A Ven, A Tyr, F Ion

Russia: () Has F GoB, A Sev, A Ukr, F Rum

Turkey: () Has A Bul, A Arm, F Bla, F Con

GM: Brent McKee, 901 Avenue T North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7L 3B9

Telephone (306) 382-0710

Deadline for Spring 1902 is **MAY 19, 1995**

There was one error in the supply chart printed last issue. I tried to correct it on all of the issues, but in case I missed one or two copies, here is the correct supply chart.

Supply Centers

Austria: Vie, Tri, Bud, +WAR

England: Lon, Lvp, Edi, +NWY

France: Par, Bre, Mar, +BEL, +SPA, +POR

Germany: Ber, Mun, Kie, +HOL +DEN

Italy: Rom, Ven, Nap

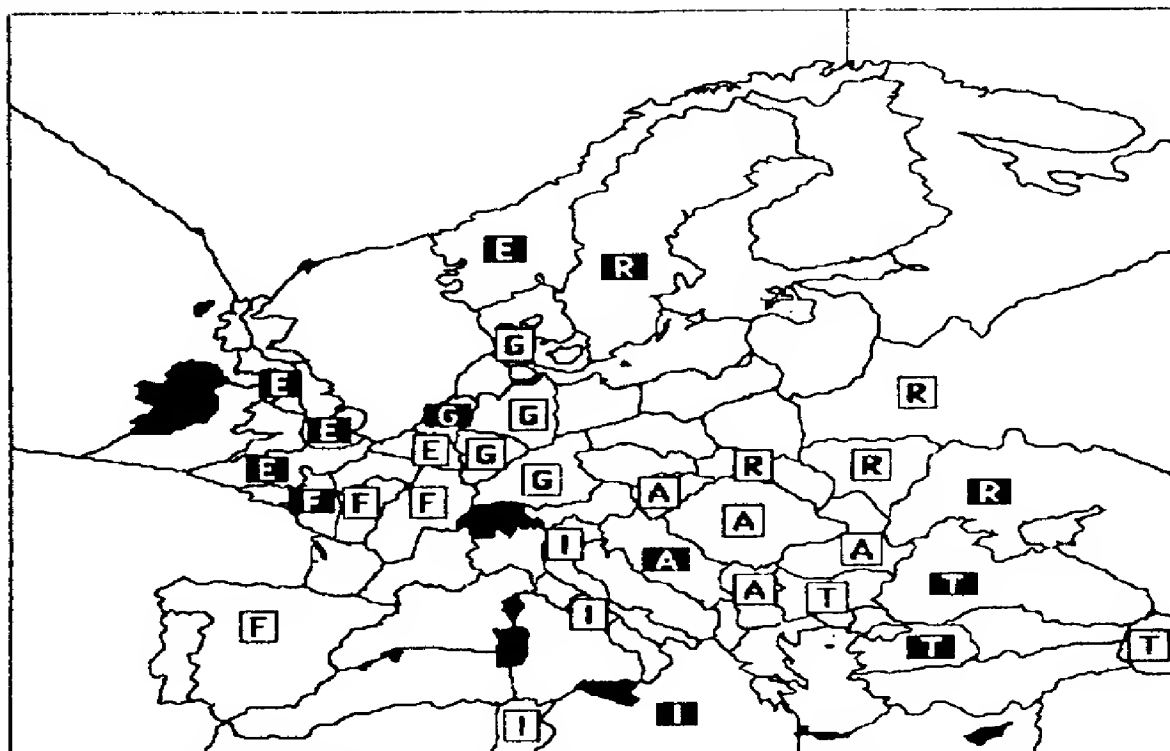
Russia: StP, Mos, Sev, -war, +RUM

Turkey: Con, Ank, Smy, +BUL

By the way Since the Italian player didn't have much to do in Winter 1901, I have decided not to replace him with the standby this turn, although he did not submit instructions I have Spring 1902 orders from the standby (which of course can be modified) and if the original Italian player does not submit orders, I will use the orders supplied by the standby, and that person will become the player of record.

New Italy Talkative Fellow

1994 CF
Rainbow
Regular
Diplomacy
Winter 1901



Map error: From last time. The Turkish fleet is in Bla, as indicated in the adjudication, not Ank as shown on the map.

Builds

Austria builds A Vie, A Bud

England builds F Lon, F Lvp

France builds A Par

Germany builds A Kie, A Mun

Italy builds A Rom

Russia builds A Mos

Turkey builds F Con

Austria: Paul Hesse / C.O. Coerdt / Gersonweg 13 / 21035, Hamburg / Germany.
(Temporary)

Has A Rum, A Ser, F Tri, A Vie, A Bud

England: Dan Gavrilovic 1560 Adelaide Street North, #119, London Ontario, N5X 2C1, Canada.

Has F Eng, F Nwy, A Bel, F Lon, F Lvp.

France: Bob Sorfleet 3420 Albion Road, Ottawa Ontario, K1V 8W3, Canada.

Has A Bur, A Spa, F Bre, A Par.

Germany: Fred Weidemeyer 4311 76th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 2H7, Canada.

Has A Den, A Ruh, F Hol, A Kie, A Mun.

Italy: Steve McKinnon, 240 Sheridan, Albany New York 12210.

Has A Tun, A Ven, F Ion, A Rom.

Russia: Melinda Holley P.O. Box 2793, Huntington West Virginia, 25727, USA.

Has F Swe, A Ukr, A Gal, F Sev, A Mos.

Turkey: James Byers 214 Acadia Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7H 3V3, Canada.

Has A Bul, A Arm, F Bla, F Con.

GM: Brent McKee, 901 Avenue T North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7L 3B9

Telephone (306) 382-0710

Press:

Italy-Austria: Oh sure, the Jets win three games in a row and you run off to Germany. That'll teach you to be faithless and bet against Team Teemu.

Italy points out: That I'd list some Canadian babes, but a) I'm not sure who's Canadian and who's not and b) if she's babe enough I don't care where she's from.

Too Town replies: Well there's always the astonishing Shannon Tweed, who by the

way was a year behind your humble editor at Mount Royal Collegiate in Saskatoon, many (many) years ago. The guys in my class regarded her as flat chested!

Italy recants: No, I do care, no one is babe enough to make up for being French.

Toon Town queries: Is that French from France or French speaking?

Italy-GM: New rule. If you forget to put someone ELSE'S unit on the map they're considered annihilated. So Turkey loses the fleet. Only don't tell him until he's ordered it to move.

GM rules: Contrary to popular opinion this zine does NOT run Deviant Dip. Players don't get to change the rules (I do!) That makes it Deviant enough.

Austria-Toon Town: I obviously want to build two armies in Vienna and Budapest. [Incidentally I will be visiting both of them (jealous?).]

Toon Town-Traveler: Very.

Russia-Austria & Turkey: 2 on 1. Cute. Think you've got enough units?

Russia-World: Anyone else want to join me in holding off this onslaught?

Deadline for Spring 1902 (in this game ONLY) is mail delivery on **MAY 23, 1995**. If you are phoning in your orders, the effective deadline is Sunday **MAY 21, 1995** as I am not available on Monday nights (don't call). **THIS DEADLINE IS FIRM.**

Note: Paul Hesse has gone to Germany as of March 23, 1995 for a period of 3-4 months. **Christopher Gesell** will submit standby orders in the event that there is any difficulty in Paul getting the zine or orders getting to me (I don't anticipate it but...). In the event that Paul NMRs Chris will take over until Paul returns. The address is **Christopher Gessell, 628 Furby Street, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3B 2W2.**

The Games

New Gamestart Armentieres

This is Regular Diplomacy, **with** preference lists (P). Entry is restricted to people who are currently playing less than 2 games in **Making Love In A Canoe** (Regular or Gunboat). Price is \$4 with the usual discount for first timers. Signed up so far are:

Morry Veer

Brian Wansleben

Philip O'Reilly

Gerry Paulson (P)

Dan Gavrilovic

New Gamestart: Colonial Diplomacy

Morry Veer has offered to GM a section of AH's new commercial variant, **Colonial Diplomacy**. There are a few details yet to work out (including fee), but for now if you're interested, send your name and preference list to me and I'll relay it to Morry.

The Company Of Adventurers: (My standby list) Mike Gonsalves, Bob Acheson, Cal White, John McLaurin, Andy York, Greg Borisko, Eric Young, Steve McKinnon, Brian Wansleben.

Shameless Plug Time

Rob Lesco (letter writer extraordinaire) wants me to announce that he has a openings in a game in **Northern Flame**, which he would like to fill as soon as possible. I think he charges for the privilege of getting his stuff, but Rob you forgot to put the price and game fees (if any) on the last issue. Rob can be reached at: **Rob Lesco, 49 Parkside Drive, Brampton Ontario, L6Y 2H1**

Poll Time

First the **Marco Poll**, run by Bob Acheson. Simply rank your five favorite North American zines (except **The Canadian Diplomat**), and your choices as the five best players (except Bob Acheson) in order and send them to **Robert Acheson, 15715 - 92 Avenue, Edmonton Alberta, T5R 5C5**. Deadline is April 30, 1995.

The other poll is **The Runestone Poll**. Rate the zines and subzines you see regularly on a scale from 1 (poorest) to 10 (best). Only rate GM's you have played under during the past year. Send your completed ballots to **Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward Street, Milford Massachusetts, 01757**.

Oh Thank Heaven....for Angst

by Greg Borisko

Given what seems to be the limited leadership of this bi-zinely column (if the extremely limited - non existent amount of feedback is any measurement), I have to wonder why I waste my time and energy writing, especially since I have such a busy life. I certainly don't do it for McGee. Obviously, I don't write to entertain you people. So, I guess I just do it to lower my self esteem even lower. *Offspring* has a good tune related to this very subject. One line goes, 'We make plans to go out at night, I wait up 'til 2 and I turn out the light' while another bemoans the fact that 'she says all that she wants is me so why does she sleep with my friends?' Seems a fairly apt description of things - ends up that the only reason he keeps her around is because she still takes him to bed and losing that could be disastrous (as I've discovered after a year long drought on the old female front!!!) Too bad I wasn't more like my cousin who picked this waitress up at the bar, is now living with her, and pretty much has it made as the girl's parents are loaded. Oh, to meet a woman with money so that I could stay home and play Mr. Mom. By the way, I met the girl the same night but said something that rather pissed her off. Typical.

I've just got into to reading John Saul's, *Voltaire's Bastards*. Excellent reading and highly thought provoking. Saul effectively points that many of the problems in the higher levels of leadership in the West comes from being bound to reason which has many inherent weaknesses and does not deal with a lot of situations well. Furthermore, the lack of humanism that dominates our culture leads to many of the calamitous predicaments that the world gets into in this day and age. Conformity, not individualism is dominating our day to day lifestyle. I know that this work is already having a pretty profound impact on my thinking. Much of what Saul is referring to has crossed my mind many times-I just thought that my training as a historian was causing me to think that way when virtually no-one else did the same. I wish I would have come up with the idea for the book though!!

I firmly believe that each and every one of us should boycott Major League Baseball this year. The whole fiasco has left me believing that neither the players or the owners deserve to have the support of people who truly love the game solely for the game. Obviously, those two groups do

not as they are going back to work after all that crap (more on crap later) with the same contract and the possibility of having the it all happen again. Good God, do they think we're all morons, idiots, and stupid?!? I certainly hope not. The game and the fans deserve far better than what these so called big leaguers can offer. The solution is obvious: minor league ball. Thankfully, Saskatoon got a team last year so that those of us who appreciate the game can go out and enjoy a night watching guys who love the game as much as we do. I know that I personally could spend every afternoon out in the field shagging flyballs, snaring grounders, sliding into second head first and the host of other things one can do on the diamond. Long Live Baseball!!

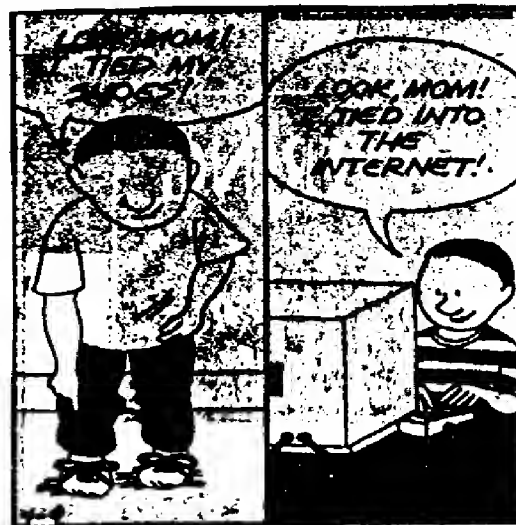
Hockey is getting exciting as the regular season winds down (You cynics out there might think that I'm being hypocritical about all this because of my continued hockey fanaticism - well, stuff it because the hockey boys at least came to an agreement that will keep them playing and will provide a viable framework for the next time. Baseball is still in the same stinking mess that it was in before!!) The flurry of trades before the trading deadline of Friday April 7 was there but with few of the big names changing teams. The Frogs did the most getting rid of Muller and Schneider (I would have loved to seen Schnieder in Boston - things would have been so rosy on 'D' especially since Iafrate is out for the season) and picking up Turgeron and Malakov. Turgeron is another stupid Frog who only shows up once in awhile. I doubt he'll be able to take the heat of the Frog press either once his grace period is over. Malakov was described by "Grapes" Cherry as looking like Ray Bourque one night (pretty high company), Joe Bourque, the garbageman the next. Hopefully, it turns out to be true and the Frogs miss the playoffs. Nothing would make me happier except for the Bruins meeting the Frogs in the playoffs and beating them again!!! Philly may be tough now that they have the LeClair line humming on all cylinders. Montreal got little out of that trade as Recchi has yet to really fit into the Frog offense. LeClair, meanwhile, has become the perfect complement to the talented Lindros\Renberg combo. They still need a goalie as does Quebec (Yeah, they have fire power but playoff hockey is notorious for becoming tight defensively. Neither team is really well suited for this style of play). Detroit looks to

be a good bet this year as the balance of the team is undeniably strong. The biggest plus has come in net where Vernon and Osgood are providing a solid one-two punch. Their defense is still a little on the soft side but given superior goaltending, the Wings may just go all the way. One of the bigger surprises for me was the Rangers trading Corey Hirsch to Vancouver for Nathan Lafayette. Hirsch is one of the prominent young goalies preparing for the NHL. New York must really think they are strong there to give him up (given the slump Mike Richter has been in, one has to wonder if letting go of Hirsch was in their best interest). Vancouver has certainly gained as they now have a quality goalie who will be able to back-up MacLean and eventually replace him. This also gives them to leverage to trade Whitmore next season if the opportunity arises. I think this one has to be counted in Vancouver's favour.

I am coming to believe that we, as Canadians, should throw the whole lot of the Bloc Québécois out of Parliament and put them in prison as traitors. No other country on the face of the planet would allow individuals into the country's law and policy making centre who had the sole intention of destroying the state. Rather, they would all be put away somewhere safe or, at least, silenced so that the disease they spread could be contained. With the referendum increasingly looking to be a vote against sovereignty, the Bloc's place in Parliament after the vote will become more and more of a hinderance rather than benefit. Once their sole purpose for existence is once again eliminated, they will merely be wasting all of our time and money sitting in Parliament. God forbid if some are elected next time and they become eligible for a pension paid for by the same taxpayers that they are attempting to screw by maintaining a Quebec with the same currency, passports

and international agreements. Can we finally get real in this country and face the fact that sometimes we do have to get tough (our stand on fisheries has rightly ignited that latent Nationalism (dare I use the word) that many of us feel but find little to direct it towards)? French Canada deserves absolutely nothing. They already have everything. Lower tuition, huge subsidies, perks for companies to re-locate there and large transfer payments. Moreover, their so called culture is protected, promoted and otherwise kept from dying by money from taxpayers originating from the Ukraine, Poland, England, Scotland, Hong Kong, China, the Phillipines and a host of other countries that are proud to be CANADIAN while maintaining their culture within the greater landscape of our national fabric. Please, Quebec, have your referendum, vote No again and shut up!! We've all had enough of your crap and whining whenever things don't go your way. With all the changes that Canada will soon experience (as outlined in the last federal budget), your demands for more say about this and about that will soon come true. You may not like the implications though!!

Finally, now that I've vented the majority of what's been bugging me, I will leave you with what I think is one of the better quotes I've read that used the word crap. I might have come close using some other colouring words, but this one takes it for the time being. Barry Melrose, coach of the L.A. Kings on recent events in Kingland (much the same can be said of how I've felt as of late and for much of the year)... 'Everything is crap. This whole world is crap. I'm still positive, but I'm positive it's crap. The crap itself is negative. All crap is negative. I'm positive of the negativity of the crap'. I don't think I could have said it better...



You in kindergarten.

Your kids in kindergarten.